

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Preschool Training

1. After the Communists took over the government of Bulgaria on 9 September 1944, men did not make enough money to support a family, and therefore the wives had to work. This meant that parents had to leave their young children in government-operated day nurseries, thus giving the Communists an opportunity to acquire a hold over children of a very young age.
2. There are two types of children's centers in Bulgaria: one for children of high Party officials and the other for children of the remainder of the population. The two types differ considerably, especially in that the children of high Party officials are never, in their nurseries, exposed to such rigid propaganda as are the other children. In addition, food in the Party nurseries is better than in the non-Party schools.
3. The non-Party nurseries in the cities, towns, and villages, usually consist of two or three rooms or a small house. There is usually one room for hobbies, one which is used for a dormitory, one for a dining room, and an office for the director and personnel of the nursery. The children are divided into groups according to age: one group consists of infants up to two years of age; a second will include the two to four-year-olds; and the last for children up to seven years old.
4. The children are constantly indoctrinated with Communist propaganda. Upon entering the nursery, the children are immediately shown pictures and busts of Stalin, Georgi Dimitrov, and Chervenkov, as well as caricatures of "Uncle Sam" carrying a child's bloody head in his hand, and Tito surrounded by the dead bodies of children. In 1949 a child in a children's home in Varna died right because the nurse had put the child into a dark cell for disobedience.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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In 1950, in the village of Boykovo, Plovdiv Okoliya, a newly-arrived group of children was not fed for an entire day. Finally the children were told to pray to God for food, but no food was given to them until they prayed to Stalin for food.

5. The children are constantly forced to play games connected with farm workers' cooperatives and machine tractor stations. They are taught to praise Stalin, Georgi Dimitrov, and Chervenkov, and to curse the Western Powers and Tito. Most of the songs they are taught to sing are Russian rather than Bulgarian songs.
6. The teachers in these nurseries are given a two-year course in order to prepare them for their jobs. Only girls devoted to the Communist Party may obtain such jobs, and the okrug councils check their records before permitting them to take the preparatory course. The course stresses the history of Marxism and Leninism, the All-Union Communist Party, and the Bulgarian Communist Party, as well as the biography of Stalin. Only very short lessons in child care, hygiene, and relations with children are given.

Elementary and Pregymnasium Training

7. The Communists pay special attention to this period of a child's development because at this age children are the most impressionable. In order to carry out their propagandizing most effectively, two organizations were created: Chavdarche and Septemvriyche, for the elementary and pregymnasium groups respectively. Both organizations are similar to the Soviet Pioneer organization.
8. The Communists teach the children that they must, with a clear conscience, report their parents to the authorities for listening to foreign radio broadcasts. In Verigovo, Karlovo Okoliya, a teacher systematically questioned the pupils as to whether their parents listen to the Voice of America, and then reported those that did to the Militia. The child of a well-known Plovdiv architect threatened to report him to the Militia if he listened to the Voice of America again.

9. The study of Russian is foremost in the curriculum and it is introduced in the first grade of elementary school. Even elementary education (reading, writing, and arithmetic) is treated secondary to Russian.

Gymnasium Education

10. The gymnasium (secondary school) curriculum is very similar to secondary school education in the Soviet Union. Literature, history, geography, and science all emphasize Soviet culture and minimize Western culture. The space allotted to Western literature in the text books has been greatly cut.
11. Before a teacher begins his classes in the morning, he must submit a report to the school superintendent stating: a) the educational goal which he intends to achieve; b) the ideological and political comments which he must make; and c) the goal in re-education which he intends to achieve. This plan must be approved before the day's lectures begin. If the teachers are not Party members, they are spied upon as they teach either by students, who are Party members and are placed in the class to check on the lectures, or by Communist teachers who have some free time simultaneously with the lecturing of the non-Party teacher, or by the superintendent himself. If the superintendent cannot be present, the student or teacher assigned to "spy" monitors the lecture, recording its main points so that the superintendent may compare the lecture with the plan submitted prior to the lectures. If the teacher leaves out a few minute points of his plan, he is merely given a warning, but if he omits any major points, he is dismissed. If he criticizes the government in front of the students, he is regarded as a saboteur in the educational system and sent to a concentration camp. The lot of a Bulgarian teacher is, today, worse than it ever was, and even mathematics, singing, and gymnastics teachers must submit plans to the superintendent.

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The Part Played by the DSNM

12. The DSNM (Dimitrovski Sŭyuz Narodnata Mladezh: Dimitrov Union of the People's Youth) is very active at the gymnasium level of Bulgarian education. It concentrates on three main activities: boycotting, preventing students from graduating and receiving diplomas, and military training.
13. The student who is boycotted by the DSNM becomes completely isolated. Other students are not allowed to talk to him. If anyone is twice caught talking to a boycotted student, the offender loses his DSNM membership and the boycotted one may be dismissed from the gymnasium. This happened in the case of the daughters of reserve Lieutenant Colonel Ivan Khristov and the daughters of the former Plovdiv leader of the Democratic Party, Petko Yordanov, who is now in the Belene Forced Labor Camp.
14. The case of Lilyana Rashkova, from Sofia, is an example of how the DSNM prevents a student from graduating from a gymnasium. Because of anti-national activities, she was told that after the two years had been completed, she might enter the seventh class, but in a gymnasium in the northern part of Bulgaria.
15. Gymnasium students must take military training courses under the leadership of uniformed officers. The following courses had to be taken until the beginning of 1952 by all students from the fourth to the seventh gymnasium class: military tactics, carbine firing, submachine gun firing, fire fighting, antiaircraft and chemical defense, track, and individual training.

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